
From: L8428@aol.com [mailto:L8428@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, December 10, 2007 10:20 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Subject: MLPA Meetings Dec 11 and 12

I would like to comment on the proposed 300' ribbon along the shore which would allow persons to fish or pick abalone in any marine reserve.

I am a volunteer naturalist at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FMR) located in Moss Beach. In addition to leading tours at the Reserve for school groups who make reservations with San Mateo County, I have a personal interest in protecting the harbor seals who call FMR home. I would like to call to your attention the fact that FMR is only a 3 mile stretch of the coastline that is currently under consideration by the MLPA Stakeholders. If this small section of the intertidal is included in this proposed "ribbon", the devastating effects on all of the animals and plants which thrive there will be irreparably harmed. In addition, scientists and students have taken advantage of the biodiversity found at FMR for many studies throughout the years. If one of the goals of the MLPA initiative is to establish areas like FMR for scientific study, then allowing the proposed ribbon to include FMR would prohibit any such studies from taking place.

Finally, the long-lasting effects on all of the animals and plants found within FMR could include the near collapse of monkey face eel and rock pricklyback eel populations. Also, some of the other species having a size limit would also be destroyed due to "catch and release". Some of these species are: lingcod, cabezon, kelp and rock greenling, redbelt surfperch, and leopard shark. In addition to the fish populations, by allowing fishers to cast their lines within FMR, the harbor seal population would also be forced to find other, less suitable areas to haul out, which as mentioned above, is of special interest to all of the volunteer naturalists at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The harbor seals are federally protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Please consider special protection for the three-mile stretch of coastline which is designated as Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Linda Ciotti
Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
(650) 917-8806